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Statement dated 27 January 2010 by the Chair of the Central African Republic configuration

The Central African Republic configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission refers to the presidential statement of the Security Council (S/PRST/2009/35) of 21 December 2009 and expresses its serious concern about the slow progress in the operational launching of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process, especially since the United Nations has achieved operational readiness, and in the preparations for the 2010 elections, two of the most urgent priorities of the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in the Central African Republic. The Central African Republic configuration renews its call on bilateral and multilateral partners to assist the Central African Republic in the implementation of these priorities.

The Central African Republic configuration welcomes the recent signature of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme document and calls upon all stakeholders to ensure that the disarmament and demobilization stages are initiated immediately, with the firm intention of completing them before the holding of the elections, scheduled for April/May 2010, and to enhance the overall coordination of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme. The delay in the deployment of military observers of the Economic Community of Central African States and the remaining ethnic tensions in the north and north-east of the country require urgent attention from the Government in order not to hamper the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process. Transparent funding, the coordination of reintegration programmes and a stronger link to the wider security sector reform strategy are crucial to the sustainability of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme.

Regarding the preparations for the 2010 elections, the Central African Republic configuration calls upon all stakeholders to enable the Independent Electoral Commission to start its work in earnest and in full independence. Considering that the first round of the presidential elections is due to be held in April, the Central African Republic configuration recommends that the Independent Electoral Commission adopt, without delay, an electoral timetable consistent with the constitutional time frame and create an environment conducive to the holding of free, fair and peaceful elections, allowing the international community to sequence

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its technical and financial support to the electoral process. An important aspect of this process is the transparent composition of the voter registration lists.

The Central African Republic configuration remains fully committed to assist the Central African Republic in its peacebuilding efforts and intends, together with its partners, to launch a new phase of the peacebuilding process in the second half of 2010 by organizing a donor conference in New York to mobilize resources for other urgent peacebuilding priorities.

The Central African Republic configuration welcomes the announcement by the Secretary-General of a second envelope of the Peacebuilding Fund for the Central African Republic, in the amount of $20 million, which will help to alleviate the urgent peacebuilding needs in the country.